

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, CSCE, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS CRITICIZES U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

1. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT CAME UNDER FIRE FROM TASS AND WEEKLY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA MARCH 23 FOR ARTICLE ENTITLED "IN USSR

MINORITY PROBLEMS JUST WON'T WITHER AWAY", WHICH APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 14 EDITION OF USNWR. ARTICLE'S AUTHOR, FORMER USNWR MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT JIM WALLACE, WAS ALSO SINGLED OUT BY NAME FOR CRITICISM.

2. THIS IS SECOND TIME WALLACE HAS COME IN FOR ROUGH TREATMENT IN SOVIET PRESS IN RECENT DAYS. MARCH 19 ISSUE OF SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' HAD NASTY ITEM BY ONE O. POLYAKOVA ENTITLED "THE CROOKED MIRROR OF JAMES WALLACE", IN WHICH WALLACE IS COMPARED TO FAIRY-TALE TROLL WHO POSSESSED MIRROR WHICH TRANSFORMED BEAUTY INTO UGLINESS. HERE ALSO, REASON FOR TAKING ON WALLACE IS HIS FEBRUARY 14 ARTICLE ON NATIONALITIES.

3. TASS (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WIRE) AND LITGAZ PIECES ON SAME SUBJECT WERE BOTH BY TASS WRITER MIKHAIL ABELEV. MAIN POINTS WERE THE SAME, ALTHOUGH ABELEV'S TWO EFFORTS DID VARY
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CONSIDERABLY IN STYLE AND TREATMENT. TASS WIRE ITEM WAS LONGER AND MORE POLITICAL OF THE TWO, WITH LITGAZ PIECE CONFINED MOSTLY TO SIMPLE RIDICULE.

4. COMMENT: ABELEV DEMONSTRATED AGILITY IN TIEING TOGETHER THEMES OF (A) CONCERTED WESTERN MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST USSR, (B) NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND

(C) FRATERNAL SOVIET NATIONALITIES POLICY. THEORY THAT
ARTICLE IN FOREIGN-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION NOT SOLD IN USSR
(I.E. USNWR) CAN CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL SOVIET
AFFAIRS IS ESPECIALLY CASUISTIC. IN ANY
CASE, WALLACE'S ORIGINAL ARTICLE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE STRUCK
A RAW NERVE. TOON

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